

Iowa Educators and Administrators Immersion Experience May 2007

The purpose of the Iowa Educators and Administrators Immersion Experience is to provide Iowa's educational leaders with the opportunity to experience firsthand the cultural and linguistic setting from which many of Iowa's most recent immigrant schoolchildren come.

Living with a host family, observing classroom instruction, and interacting with the host community more generally allows immersion participants to develop rich insights about the cultural and linguistic resources that Iowa's immigrant schoolchildren bring with them into the classroom.

From these insights comes the capacity not only to recognize the differences these children bring, but also to acknowledge their implications for teaching and learning, and the need to make provisions in curriculum and instruction.

The destination for the May 2007 immersion experience was Villachuato, Michoacán, México. These photos provide merely a snapshot of the participants' Immersion trip experiences.

For more information, contact Katherine Richardson Bruna, trip facilitator, at krbruna@iastate.edu.

May 2007 Participants

- Jeanne Angel, ELL Facilitator, Waterloo
- Brenda Auxier-Mailey, Student Services Director, Urbandale
- Ellen Fairchild, Lecturer, Iowa State University
- Brenda Ferrie, Principal, Sacred Heart School
- Dave Henrichs, Superintendent, Lenox

May 2007 Participants

- Sharon Jenson, Assistant Professor, Simpson College
- Betsy Nefzger, School Improvement Facilitator, Keystone AEA
- Carole Richardson, Assistant Professor, Simpson College
- Lisa Stevenson, Curriculum Director, West Liberty

May 2007 Participants

- Chad Wahls, Principal, Postville
- Mike Wells, Superintendent, Corning

Anxious at the Airport



Excited on the Airplane



We're "Home"!



Let's Eat!



Exploring the Community







Getting to Know New Friends: The Locals . . .



And Each Other!



Iowa's Educators and Administrators Go Back To Middle School



Learning in a New Language is Tough: Can You Help Me Out Here?





Students Show Off Some New Technology



We Even Give It a Try



Students Practice a Dance for Mother's Day



And Then Pose for a Picture



Others Shoot Some Hoops



Mónica, the English Teacher, Does Some Q&A



We Say Goodbye to the Middle School



And Hit the Streets Again: A Surprise Around Every Corner







Scenes from "Home": Sharing Learning with New Family





While They Share Their Lives With Us













How Do You Say "Ice Cream" in Spanish?



Other Ways of Joining In: Soccer Games . . .



Board Games



And Kick Ball





Back To School Again: This Time It's Elementary!



Checking Out Classrooms











Checking Out Curriculum



And Just Hanging Out



This Student is a Nebraskan!



Time for 10:30 Taquitos



Families Deliver Home-Cooked Meals to School



Who's Behind the Camera Now?



A Space for Reflection: A Day's Debrief



And a Much-Needed Nap



El Día de Santa Cruz: A Special Saint's Day Celebration . . . Music



Dancing . . .



And a Parade



Into Church



And Onto the Mountain



Final Glimpses: Nati with her Birds



Michi hiding behind some pots



Fredi With His Chicken



A Caring Family



A Sad Goodbye



And the Journey Home: Where Will the Learning Take Us?



Many Thanks to May 2007
Participants and the Host Families
and Community

You Were the Heart of the
Experience!